

**Senate File 2161 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2161

BY KINNEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act establishing a return to work incentive program, making  
2 an appropriation, and including effective date provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1     Section 1.  DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — RETURN TO  
2 WORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

3     1.  A return to work incentive program is established within  
4 the department of workforce development.  The department shall  
5 provide an individual who is eligible to receive benefits under  
6 the program a weekly benefit amount of one hundred dollars for  
7 a maximum period of twenty-four weeks subject to available  
8 funding.

9     2.  To be eligible for return to work incentive program  
10 benefits, an individual shall meet all of the following  
11 requirements:

12     a.  The individual was receiving benefits under chapter  
13 96, between the effective date of this Act and December 1,  
14 2022, and, prior to exhausting the individual's benefits, the  
15 individual accepts an offer of full-time employment.

16     b.  The individual has not previously participated in the  
17 program.

18     c.  The individual is not receiving unemployment benefits or  
19 payments from a similar program in another state.

20     d.  The individual provides employer contact information for  
21 a person who is not the individual, including but not limited  
22 to an Iowa business address, or a home address if the job is  
23 performed remotely, and a telephone number for a supervisor.

24     e.  The individual provides a paystub or other proof that  
25 the individual is employed, as established by the department by  
26 rule, for each week the individual applies for benefits under  
27 the program.

28     f.  The individual must work a minimum of thirty-two hours  
29 for each week that the individual applies for benefits under  
30 the program.

31     3.  Payments under the return to work incentive program shall  
32 be made on a weekly basis for the duration of an individual's  
33 participation in the program.

34     4.  An individual who is considered temporarily unemployed,  
35 as that term is defined in section 96.1A, subsection 37, or

1 is a part of a voluntary shared work compensation program as  
2 established by section 96.40, shall not be eligible for return  
3 to work incentive program benefits.

4 5. The return to work program shall terminate December 31,  
5 2023.

6 Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT — RETURN TO  
7 WORK INCENTIVE PROGRAM — APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated  
8 from the Iowa coronavirus fiscal recovery fund established in  
9 section 8.57G to the department of workforce development for  
10 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30,  
11 2022, the following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary,  
12 to be used for the purposes designated:

13 For the return to work program established in section 1 of  
14 this Act:

15 ..... \$ 10,000,000

16 Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys appropriated in this  
17 section that remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of  
18 the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall  
19 remain available for the purposes designated in the succeeding  
20 fiscal year.

21 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
22 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

23 EXPLANATION

24 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
25 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

26 This bill establishes a return to work incentive program and  
27 makes an appropriation.

28 The bill establishes a return to work incentive program  
29 within the department of workforce development. The department  
30 shall provide an individual who is eligible to receive benefits  
31 under the incentive program a weekly benefit amount of \$100 for  
32 a maximum period of 24 weeks as available funding provides.

33 The bill requires an individual meet certain criteria  
34 before the individual is eligible for return to work benefits.  
35 The criteria requires the individual to have been receiving

1 unemployment benefits between the bill's effective date and  
2 December 1, 2022, and, prior to exhausting the individual's  
3 benefits, the individual accepted an offer of full-time  
4 employment; to have never previously participated in the return  
5 to work program; to not be receiving unemployment benefits  
6 or payments from a similar program from another state; to  
7 provide employer contact information for a person who is not  
8 the individual, including but not limited to an Iowa business  
9 address, or a home address if the job is performed remotely,  
10 and a telephone number for a supervisor; to provide a paystub  
11 or other proof that the individual is employed as established  
12 by the department of workforce development by rule for each  
13 week the individual applies for benefits under the return to  
14 work program; and work a minimum of 32 hours for each week the  
15 individual is applying for return to work benefits.

16 The bill provides that payments under the return to work  
17 incentive program shall be made on a weekly basis as an  
18 individual participates in the program.

19 The bill provides that an individual who is considered  
20 temporarily unemployed or is a part of a voluntary shared work  
21 compensation program shall not be eligible for return to work  
22 program benefits.

23 The bill provides that the return to work incentive program  
24 shall terminate on December 31, 2023.

25 The bill appropriates \$10 million for FY 2021-2022 from the  
26 state fiscal recovery fund of the American rescue plan to the  
27 department of workforce development for the return to work  
28 program. Moneys appropriated shall not revert to the general  
29 fund of the state at the close of the fiscal year, but shall  
30 remain available for expenditure during the succeeding fiscal  
31 year.

32 This bill becomes effective upon enactment.